

*Thirty-fourth Annual Report*  
Maryland State Board  
*Of*  
Motion Picture Censors



1949-1950

Offices  
848 NORTH HOWARD STREET  
Baltimore-1, Maryland

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*Of*  
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**SYDNEY R. TRAUB**  
Chairman

**EVA M. HOLLAND**  
Vice-Chairman and Treasurer

**JOHN K. BURKLEY**  
Secretary

**ELMER P. BUTZ**  
Administrative Assistant



Offices  
848 NORTH HOWARD STREET  
Baltimore-1, Maryland

HONORABLE WILLIAM PRESTON LANE, JR.,

*Governor of Maryland,*

Annapolis, Maryland

Dear Governor Lane:

We have the honor to present to you the Thirty-fourth Annual Report of the Maryland State Board of Motion Picture Censors for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 1949, and ending June 30, 1950.

The report sets forth the work of the Board during the period in question and includes a statement of the receipts and disbursements contingent upon its operation.

#### Work of the Board

During the fiscal year, the Board examined new subjects as follows: 1,029 Dramas, 635 Comedies, 585 Newsreels, 190 Cartoons, 148 Advertising Subjects and 9 Miscellaneous Subjects. Of this group, 7 dramas were rejected in toto, namely, *Sins of the Fathers*, *Wild Weed*, *DeDee*, *Room Upstairs*, *Burning Question*, *Girl's Club* and *Gigi*. Eliminations were ordered and made in 72 dramas and 2 comedies. All rejections and eliminations were based on Section 6 of the Act of 1922, Chapter 390, as amended. *No appeal from any decision of the Board was taken to court.*

In addition to the aforesaid films, the Board issued certificates for 18,243 duplicate films. Of these, eliminations were made in 272, in furtherance of the action taken by the Board on the originals thereof. A total of 62,060,077 feet of film was examined and checked in the department—a record high.

The foregoing activities do not adequately indicate the extent of the work performed by the Board. During the year numerous conferences were held with applicants for the licensing of films and, whenever possible, suggestions were offered for the revision thereof, in order that conflict with the Maryland Statute might be avoided. This approach to the task of censoring pictures is important to the producing companies and to the public and cannot be ascertained by any statistical record. Likewise the number of eliminations listed in this report do not reflect the measure of protection which the public has received from the Board. For the producing companies have become so acquainted with the State Motion Picture regulations and the procedure under which they are administered that scenic matter and dialogue, known as a consequence to be offensive, are frequently deleted from films before they reach the Board for review.

## Financial Statement

The receipts for the fiscal year involved were \$82,328.00—the greatest amount the Board has ever received. After allowing for capital expenditures of \$247.50, a net of \$33,762.37 was transmitted to the State Treasury. This figure represents the largest net income ever to be derived from motion picture censorship in Maryland. Since it began to function thirty-four years ago, the Board has paid over to the State approximately \$474,000.00 in excess of operating and equipment expenditures. Incidentally, the Maryland fees for censoring films are not only lower than elsewhere, but are virtually at the same rates as they were when the Board was established.

## Enforcement

During the past year no wilful infraction of the law was reported. Inspections of county theatres were substantially increased, and communications having for their objectives full compliance with the law were circulated throughout the State. In the main, the Board received the cooperation of the exhibitors in executing the provisions of the motion picture statute.

## Foreign Films and Committees

The Board examined 80 foreign films, an increase of 17 over the previous fiscal year. In each instance where the dialogue appeared in a foreign tongue, the Board availed itself of recognized linguists who willingly and gratuitously gave of their time and knowledge concerning the languages, customs and traditions of foreign countries. Likewise in cases of certain domestic films, representative citizens accepted invitations to "sit in" with the Board in its examination of such pictures and their advice and reactions thereto were of considerable value in determining the propriety thereof.

## Conclusion

As in the past, we desire to express to you our deepest appreciation of your cooperation and consideration in all matters relating to the conduct of our office.

Respectfully submitted,  
SYDNEY R. TRAUB, *Chairman*  
EVA M. HOLLAND, *Vice-Chairman*  
JOHN K. BURKLEY, *Secretary*

August 31, 1950

# MARYLAND STATE BOARD OF MOTION PICTURE CENSORS

For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 1950

## Receipts

### Fees:

Original Reels—35MM ( 7,746,117 ft.)	\$17,380.00	
Original Reels—16MM ( 416,794 ft.)	2,072.00	
Original Reels—16MM ( 2,142 ft.)	12.00	
(Reversible)	—————	\$19,464.00
Duplicate Reels—35MM (53,895,024 ft.)	\$61,090.00	
Duplicate Reels—16MM		
Duplicate Reels—16MM		
(Reversible)	—————	61,090.00
Sale of Substitute Seals (1,774).....		1,774.00
		—————
		\$82,328.00
Deposited to Credit of State Treasurer.....		\$82,328.00

## Expenses

### Salaries:

Board Members.....	\$ 8,580.00	
Other Employees.....	32,644.12	
	—————	\$41,224.12

### Other Expenses:

Repairs.....	\$ 32.38	
Light, Heat, Power and Water.....	331.22	
Traveling.....	1,591.99	
Communication.....	732.99	
Printing.....	115.00	
Contractual, Film Seals.....	2,999.97	
RCA Inspection Service.....	329.16	
Office Supplies.....	867.89	
Motion Picture Machine Supplies.....	132.91	
Office Equipment.....	247.50	
Motion Picture Equipment.....	0.00	
Insurance.....	32.50	
	—————	\$ 7,341.51
		—————
		\$48,565.63

### Budget Account (Per Comptroller)

Appropriation, 1950.....	\$49,917.00	
	—————	\$49,917.00
Less Reversion to Reserve Fund.....		1,351.37
General Fund Disbursement.....		—————
		\$48,565.63

**MARYLAND STATE BOARD OF MOTION PICTURE CENSORS**  
**TABLE SHOWING TOTAL ANNUAL RECEIPTS AND DISBURSEMENTS**  
**TOGETHER WITH THE AMOUNTS REVERTING TO**  
**THE STATE TREASURY**

October 1, 1920 — June 30, 1950

	Receipts	Disbursements	Amount Reverting to State Treasury
10-1-20 to 9-30-21.....	\$ 26,488.33	\$ 19,025.26	\$ 7,463.07
10-1-21 to 9-30-22.....	26,866.90	19,842.12	7,024.78
10-1-22 to 9-30-23.....	27,059.51	19,892.93	7,166.58
10-1-23 to 9-30-24.....	26,338.50	20,730.44	5,608.06
10-1-24 to 9-30-25.....	29,249.50	22,207.24	7,042.26
10-1-25 to 9-30-26.....	30,207.92	22,662.82	7,545.10
10-1-26 to 9-30-27.....	32,498.55	24,883.80	7,614.75
10-1-27 to 9-30-28.....	38,165.57	27,734.69	10,430.88
10-1-28 to 9-30-29.....	44,486.27	32,937.76	11,548.51
10-1-29 to 9-30-30.....	38,954.98	31,718.26	7,236.72
10-1-30 to 9-30-31.....	35,245.85	31,816.79	3,429.06
10-1-31 to 9-30-32.....	35,637.44	32,158.81	3,478.63
10-1-32 to 9-30-33.....	35,152.34	34,207.93	944.41
10-1-33 to 9-30-34.....	36,563.00	27,174.49	9,388.51
10-1-34 to 9-30-35.....	39,463.00	27,577.76	11,885.24
10-1-35 to 9-30-36.....	44,073.00	28,927.98	15,145.02
10-1-36 to 9-30-37.....	49,293.00	28,855.10	20,437.90
10-1-37 to 9-30-38.....	48,659.00	30,197.34	18,461.66
10-1-38 to 9-30-39.....	50,180.00	30,302.92	19,877.08
10-1-39 to 9-30-40.....	53,180.00	29,598.72	23,581.28
10-1-40 to 9-30-41.....	55,877.00	30,347.18	25,529.82
10-1-41 to 9-30-42.....	55,561.00	31,135.92	24,425.08
10-1-42 to 6-30-43.....	39,828.00	22,578.29	17,249.71
7-1-43 to 6-30-44.....	55,585.00	35,112.59	20,472.41
7-1-44 to 6-30-45.....	55,054.00	35,090.08	19,963.92
7-1-45 to 6-30-46.....	59,896.00	35,802.90	23,593.10
7-1-46 to 6-30-47.....	65,961.00	42,150.48	23,810.52
7-1-47 to 6-30-48.....	72,832.00	44,814.74	28,017.26
7-1-48 to 6-30-49.....	78,606.00	47,468.24	31,137.76
7-1-49 to 6-30-50.....	82,328.00	48,565.63	33,762.37
	<hr/> \$1,368,790.66	<hr/> \$915,519.21	<hr/> *\$453,271.45

\* The above amount reverting to State Treasury does not include \$19,487.38 for period 6-1-16 to 9-30-20.

**MARYLAND STATE BOARD OF MOTION PICTURE CENSORS**  
**REPORT OF FILMS EXAMINED**  
**July 1, 1949 — June 30, 1950**

1949	Films Original	Films Duplicate	Reels Original	Reels Duplicate	No. of Feet Original	No. of Feet Duplicate	Films Approved	Films Rejected	Films Elimi- nated
July.....	207	1,483	487	5,217	637,345	4,202,656	1,670	1	19
August.....	216	1,585	843	5,480	672,890	4,601,396	1,795	1	5
September.....	215	1,515	550	4,721	688,064	4,582,481	1,705	1	24
October.....	217	1,632	818	5,379	678,123	4,346,498	1,835	....	14
November.....	222	1,512	941	5,839	745,300	4,720,678	1,693	....	41
December.....	245	1,613	913	5,943	750,480	4,836,842	1,827	1	30
1950									
January.....	224	1,484	709	5,400	637,165	4,317,548	1,699	....	9
February.....	183	1,359	637	5,068	543,610	4,138,964	1,488	....	54
March.....	253	1,650	546	5,258	812,470	4,815,120	1,853	1	49
April.....	217	1,364	886	5,013	722,863	4,034,129	1,542	....	39
May.....	194	1,425	791	5,272	635,426	4,274,912	1,582	1	36
June.....	203	1,621	792	6,307	641,317	5,023,800	1,797	1	26
TOTALS.....	2,596	18,243	9,013	64,897	8,165,053	53,895,024	20,486	7	346

**MARYLAND STATE BOARD OF MOTION PICTURE CENSORS**  
**CLASSIFICATION OF FILMS**

July 1, 1949 — June 30, 1950

1949	Dramas	Comedies	News	Cartoons	Adver- tising	Miscel- laneous
July.....	529	210	835	88	24	4
August.....	577	255	823	132	12	2
September.....	564	217	834	101	14	....
October.....	516	297	846	170	20	....
November.....	579	255	793	94	13	....
December.....	605	269	862	107	15	....
1950						
January.....	516	281	764	130	17	....
February.....	508	173	737	101	23	....
March.....	588	249	927	119	20	....
April.....	511	239	740	81	9	1
May.....	544	154	822	80	17	2
June.....	604	255	841	103	15	6
Totals.....	6,641	2,854	9,824	1,306	199	15

**SUMMARY OF REPORT**

Films, Original.....	2,596			
Films, Duplicate.....	18,243			
Reels Original.....		9,013		
Reels, Duplicate.....		64,897		
Number of Feet, Original.....			8,165,053	
Number of Feet, Duplicate....			53,895,024	
Films Approved.....				20,486
Films Rejected.....				7
Films Eliminated .....				346
		<u>20,839</u>	<u>73,910</u>	<u>62,060,077</u>
				<u>20,839</u>